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b) measuring the level of proteolytic products derived from the proteolytic processing of NFκB in said sample, wherein a reduction in the level of said proteolytic products from a basal state is correlated with the presence of an autoimmune disease associated with a reduction in NFκB activity.

Pending Claims

Claims 65-71 are pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claim 65 is amended, and claims 66 and 67 are cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these or related claims in one or more continuing applications. Claims 65, and 68-71 are presented for examination.

Support for the amendment to claim 65 may be found throughout the specification, and at least at page 10. A marked-up version of the above claim amendment is attached hereto.

The claimed invention provides a method of screening for the presence of an autoimmune disease associated with a reduction in NFκB activity by detecting a reduction in the level of proteolytic products derived from the proteolytic processing of NFκB.. As discussed in the specification at page 38, lines 4-10, such an assay may be used to facilitate early diagnosis of an autoimmune disease in an individual suspected to be at risk for such a disease.

Rejection of Claims 65-71 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 65-71 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification

“while being enabled for detecting IDDM by detecting a reduction in the proteolytic processing of NFκB by proteasomes, does not reasonably provide enablement for detecting any autoimmune disease by detecting a reduction in the proteolytic processing of NFκB by proteasomes”.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

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